

## **DRAFT**

### **Minutes from Gambling Control Board Meeting August 11, 2010**

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The August meeting of Maine's Gambling Control Board was held in the Gambling Control Board Room in Augusta on August 11, 2010.

Meeting was called to order at 12:37 P.M.

Members Present: George McHale (Chair), Harry Stickney, Richard Arnold and Cushing Samp.

Members Absent: Joe Laliberte.

Staff members present: Robert Welch (Executive Director), Scott Woods (Auditor), and Det. Don Armstrong (Maine State Police).

Legal Counsel: William Stokes Deputy Attorney General.

The minutes from the 6/23/10 Gambling Control Board meeting were reviewed.

Motion to Accept: Cushing Samp Second: Richard Arnold Passed: 4-0

Robert Welch gave the Executive Director's Report. The Board was updated on:

- a) Number of Police calls by Bangor PD to 500 Main St – Handout was presented to the Board showing that Bangor PD responded to 500 Main St. a total of 114 times from July 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010. As a point of comparison, Bangor PD advised that another Main St. retailer had 182 calls, a large retailer in the City had 243 calls and a social services facility had 344 calls during the same period.
- b) Mr. Welch pointed out to the Board that the State law had been changed under Title 8 M.R.S.A., C-31, §1003(2) to make clear that the Executive Director of the Gambling Control Board is hired by the Commissioner of Public Safety with consultation by the Board. This was changed in part HHHH of the Budget (LD 1671).
- c) Summer Meetings of Legal and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature- Legal and Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on August 17, 2010 to look at the way Racino funds are being distributed. On August 18, 2010, the Committee will meet to review the nomination of Matthew Dyer for the Gambling Control Board.
- d) Mr. Welch announced that Bangor Historic Track had been renewed again as a Slot Operator and IGT had been renewed as a Slot Distributor. Both companies met the criteria for renewal under the law and regulations..

Financial Update was given by Scott Woods. Mr. Woods gave out the Weekly Income Sheet and explained that he had just returned from vacation and updated the weekly totals. Mr. Woods said that everything was quiet and moving along.

Maine State Police Report: Det. Don Armstrong of Maine State Police reported that everything was going well. Armstrong said that there continued to be a lot of applications for newly hired people and renewal applications by existing employees. There were a minimal amount of incidents. Currently, there are 3 new Theft complaints being investigated. Of the 3 pending cases from last meeting, one was declined prosecution by the DA's office and two were going forward.

Chairman McHale also asked about found money issue at the facility and was advised that any found money that could not be given back to an owner was held and taxed each year. Mr. Welch noted that Surveillance and Security work very well trying to locate the rightful owners of the money.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

#### New Business:

Mr. Welch handed out a report from the American Gaming Association that had been sent to each Board member on a study done regarding gambling addiction rates in the U.S.

Mr. Welch also handed out a Bangor Daily News article and a City of Bangor Council Proclamation for Hollywood Slots observance of Responsible Gaming Awareness Week. This is the week chosen by the gaming industry, the social agencies have chosen the week in March that has NCAA Tournament as their week of heightened activities. Mr. Welch said that the activities at Hollywood Slots were designed to heighten awareness among employees to the problems.

Chairman McHale inquired about the planning being done in case a full casino is passed by the voters. Mr. Welch said that he had some budget and regulatory issues identified, and he had some rules set aside for different games in case new rules have to be written.

#### .Public Comments:

Steve Lambert of Hollywood Slots advised that July had their 4<sup>th</sup> busiest day due to the Ford Mustang giveaway and the Bangor Fair being open. The Hotel has been again named the Best Hotel in Bangor. Jason Birney (Hollywood Slots Marketing) reported on the Responsible Gaming Week and the activities in Bangor to reengage the employees about the problem of gambling addiction.

Mr. Birney also said that the Waterfront Concert Series was drawing a large crowd and increased business.

Commissioner Anne Jordan addressed the Board in a follow up about planning for any expansion of gaming. She advised that a lot of planning was done, but with a new Governor in January things may change. Commissioner Jordan did say that there would have to be an increase in manpower.

Board Member Richard Arnold announced that he was resigning from the Board as his business is growing and he will be spending more time in North Carolina.

Next meeting date was set for 9/15/10 at 1230.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

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Robert P. Welch